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Kearsley Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

1946.

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Members of the Sanitary Committee.

Chairman :

Councillor J. MARTIN.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor R. MATTHEWS, J.P., C.C.

Members :

Councillor Mrs. A. M. HOGG, J.P.

„ J. CRANSHAW.

„ J. FOX.

„ W. HOLEHOUSE.

„ E. HOWARD, J.P.

„ S. J. MORGAN.

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„ H. BARRETT.

„ R. TYLDSLEY.

„ S. STREET.

„ S. CURRY.

„ W. TAYLOR.

„ J. ECKERSLEY.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary and Meat Inspector - F. BROOK, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerks : T. SHAW (part-time), Miss B. WOLSTENCROFT (part-time).

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for the year 1946 the Annual Report on the health of the district, together with the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

It is interesting to regard the vital statistics for the ten previous years, 1936 to 1945, and compare them with the figures for the year under review.

The table below gives the variation in population and the mortality and birth figures for the previous ten years.

YEAR	MORTALITY RATE				BIRTH RATE
	Population	Total	Infants	Still-births	
1936	10,920	15.1	73.0	68.0	13.6
1937	10,750	14.0	29.0	62.0	12.6
1938	10,750	13.0	39.0	93.0	11.7
1939	10,740	15.6	66.0	42.0	12.5
1940	9,959	15.4	87.5	53.0	16.0
1941	9,831	13.7	82.8	42.0	15.9
1942	9,711	14.8	46.0	51.0	13.4
1943	9,466	14.0	65.0	40.0	17.6
1944	9,278	12.8	35.5	19.9	21.2
1945	9,369	13.0	43.0	29.0	17.2

These figures are significant in that they demonstrate the results of the council's work in improving the health of the district. The death rate for all ages is 11.1 for 1946 compared with an average of 14.1 for the previous decade.

The infant mortality rate is 31 compared with an average of 56 for the previous ten years and the still births have fallen to 20 as compared with the average of 50.

The birth rate is 18.8 compared with the average for ten years of 15.1.

The outbreak of war precluded further progress in the council's progressive housing policy and it is a matter of regret to your officials concerned that the present economic position does not permit of immediate further progress in slum clearance.

Repairs to defective houses are subject to shortages and priorities that make for additional difficulties, but the urgent repairs are being carried out as expeditiously as possible.

I am again conscious of the help and encouragement afforded to me by the chairman and members of the Sanitary Committee and of the loyal co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector and the clerical staff, to all of whom I express my gratitude.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA—1,720 statute acres (approx.)

POPULATION—Estimated 1946—10,030.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Births : Legitimate	184	89	95
Illegitimate	5	3	2

Birth-rate per 1000 population, 18·8.

Still Births	4	3	1
Rate per 1000 total births, 20·0			

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Deaths	112	56	56

Death rate per 1000 population, 11·1.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	TOTAL	Males	Females
Legitimate	6	2	4
Illegitimate	Nil.		

Infantile Mortality Rate—31·0 per 1000 births

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	...	...	Nil.

Causes of Death in 1946.

Respiratory tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	7
Influenza ..... ..	...	...	...	1
Cancer ... ..	...	...	...	14
Heart disease ... ..	...	...	...	24
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	10
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	...	2

Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Septicaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Intra cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
TOTAL							112

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

The following is a list of cases of infectious disease notified during the year 1946 :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Scarlet fever	7
Diphtheria	7
Whooping cough	39
Erysipelas	1
Measles	17
Acute primary pneumonia	10

Cases removed to hospital from the district :—

Scarlet fever	3
Diphtheria	7

Tuberculosis—Cases notified :—

Respiratory	8
Non-respiratory	Nil.

The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 7 cases notified during the year, and there were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

There were 7 cases of diphtheria to record for the year. The average for the previous four years is 6 cases. There were no deaths.

Ambulance Facilities.

Jointly maintained by the adjoining districts of Farnworth, Kearsley, and Little Lever, the ambulance scheme in operation provides a twenty-four hours service. The ambulances travelled a total of 14,699 miles during 1946, removing accidents, urgent illness, and cases for routine treatment to hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Bolton.

Laboratory Facilities.

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

During the year 76 swabs were examined for the presence of the organism of diphtheria.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council, free of charge, to general practitioners for patients residing within the district. A supply has been available in 10,000 units for therapeutic use. None was issued during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation is carried out weekly at the Kearsley School Clinic by Dr. C. H. T. Wade, Divisional School Medical Officer, and Kearsley cases are also immunised at the weekly clinics at the School Medical Clinic, Farnworth. The following table gives the numbers immunised at the end of 1946:—

Age at 31-12-46. i.e.— Born in Year	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5 to 9 1937- 1941	10 to 14 1932- 1936	Total under 15
Number Immunised ...	6	117	110	137	118	558	607	1,653
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1946 ...			772			1,340		

Percentage of Children Immunised : 0—4 years—63.2%.
5—14 „ —86.9%.

Hospitals available for the Area.

General. The Bolton Royal Infirmary and the Salford Royal Hospital, both voluntary hospitals, are within easy reach of the area, and Townleys Hospital is situated within the adjacent Borough of Farnworth, and under the administration of the Bolton Corporation.

The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital at Pendlebury is also available for suitable cases from this area.

Infectious Diseases. Infectious diseases, including smallpox, are treated at the Astley Sanatorium, under the administration of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, of which this Authority is a constituent member.

Tuberculosis. The County Council provides treatment for tuberculosis at various institutions throughout the county.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinic is situated in Station Road, Kearsley, and is under the control of the County Council.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Dispensary, Darley Street, Farnworth, and this is also under County Council control.

The treatment of Venereal Disease is carried out at the V. D. Clinic, Civic Centre, Bolton, provided and administered by the Bolton Corporation.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Stoneclough Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the County Districts Nursing Association, operates in the Stoneclough area of the district, and the Kearsley Nursing Association operates in the remaining part of the Urban District. The Urban Council makes an annual contribution of £20 to each Association.

Midwives.

Under the administration of the County Council, there is one midwife resident in the Urban District.

Home Helps.

The Lancashire County Council scheme for Home Helps operates in this area and is directed, on behalf of the County, by the Health Department of the Kearsley Urban District Council. Home Helps were provided in two instances during the year.

Water Supply.

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are 4 houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant's Seat, dependent on well water which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department, and Irwell Valley Water Board:—

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water.	48	—
Results:	Generally filtration and treatment necessary.	—
No. of chemical analyses.	11	—
Results:	Generally filtration and treatment necessary.	—
Water going into supply where treatment is installed:—		
No. of bacteriological examinations.	48	12
Results:	Generally of excellent quality; absence of B. coli in 100 mils— 100%.	Satisfactory.

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Vallay Valley Board
No. of chemical analyses.	11	3
Results:	Generally of excellent quality.	Satisfactory.
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.	Action not necessary.	Chlorine treat- ment at all reservoirs.
Liability to plumbo-solvent action.	No.	Yes.
Analyses for plumbo-solvent action.	—	5
Results:	—	Not very satis- factory. Installation pro- ceeding of lime treatment plants at two reservoirs.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1)	By the local authority	...	...	5
(2)	By other local authorities	...	...	-
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	9

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for hous- ing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	97
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	97
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	97

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	85
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year :-

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a)	By owners	—
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(a)	By owners	6
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :-

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	44
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	74
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	327
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	37
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	41

Housing Conditions.

Approximately 43% of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 20% as medium, and 37% as modern.

A complete survey of the district has been made which reveals that 354 families now in lodgings will require houses.

There are 5 schemes in hand, involving 180 houses, the types of which are as follows :-

14 two bedroomed houses.

136 three bedroomed houses.

30 pre-fabricated bungalows.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

NOTICES.

Forty-eight preliminary notices and 35 statutory notices were served during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING.

Statement showing number of receptacles emptied during the year.

Privy middens	...	...	...	...	85
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	6
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	159,640
Pails	...	...	...	...	566
Total loads removed	...	...	...	...	1,537

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method of tipping continues to be most satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows :—

Fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	3,348
Waste water closets	...	...	...	...	94
Dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	3,239
Pails	...	...	...	...	11
Privy middens	...	...	...	...	27
Privy closets	...	...	...	...	43

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with :—

<i>Sewage Works.</i>		<i>Method of Treatment.</i>
Clammerclough ...	...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green	...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley ...	...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filter, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee ...	...	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tank and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic electric ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The dairies and cowsheds have been inspected on 68 occasions, and their condition was satisfactory.

During the year 17 samples of milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for tubercle bacilli examination. The result of the examination showed that 14 samples were negative and three positive. Eight samples of milk were submitted for the methylene blue and coliform tests, and all satisfied the tests.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners, viz:—

280 lbs. of codfish.
8 lbs. of bacon.
8 lbs. of beef.
1 19 oz. tin of peas.
1 16 oz. tin of steak.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The following are particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	6
Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	...	3
Dried Peas	...	...	...	...	4
Treacle	...	...	...	...	2

All the samples were found to be genuine.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND BAKEHOUSES.

Twenty-five visits were paid to factories and workplaces and 43 visits to bakehouses.

The inspections included visits to furniture manufacturers, confectionery manufacturers, motor body builders, garages and cotton mills. Defects in three instances were remedied without delay.

The condition of the premises was satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Three Council houses were found to be infested with bed bugs.

At two of the houses disinfestation by the use of insecticide was carried out, but it was necessary to use hydrogen cyanide at the remaining house, and this work was undertaken by Contractors.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

Visits to Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ Smallpox Contacts	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ Property under Notice	...	...	...	...	...	348
„ Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	25
„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	43
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	68
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc....	...	...	...	...	...	93
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	140
General Visits—no nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	533

1,276

FARNWORTH:
ALLDRED & SONS LTD. CAXTON BUILDINGS.
1947